

CLAIMS

1. A data processing system comprising a cluster of devices
5 interconnected for the communication of data in streams, wherein one of said
devices is a source device for at least two data streams to be sent to one or
more other devices as destination devices of said cluster, said source device
including:

buffering means arranged to apply a respective delay to at least one of
10 said at least two data streams; and

multiplexing means coupled with said buffering means and arranged to
combine said at least two streams into a single data stream for transmission;

the system further comprising a first data channel linking said source and
destination devices and carrying said data stream for transmission from the
15 source device to the or each destination device.

2. A system as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said source device
further comprises an input to receive said at least two data streams from a
remote source.

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3. A system as claimed in Claim 2, wherein said at least two data
streams are multiplexed together when received by said source device, said
source device further comprising demultiplexing means coupling said input and
said buffering means and arranged to separate said streams prior to buffering.

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4. A system as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said at least two data
streams comprise digital video data and audio data respectively, wherein the
digital video data has a different destination device to the audio data.

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5. A system as claimed in Claim 4, wherein said audio data is digital

audio data.

6. A system as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said source device further comprises data processing means interposed in the signal path between
5 said buffering means and said multiplexing means.

7. A system as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the first and second data streams are encoded according to a first communications protocol, and the or each destination device comprises a respective decoder operating according to
10 said protocol.

8. A system as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said first data channel is a digital data communication bus to which the devices are respectively interfaced, with said multiplexed data streams being carried thereupon as
15 discrete data packets.

9. A system as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said first data channel is a wireless communications link for which each of the destination devices is provided with at least a receiver and said source device is provided with at least
20 a transmitter.

10. A system as claimed in Claim 1, comprising two or more source devices.

11. A system as claimed in Claim 10, wherein at least one of said two or more source devices further comprises the technical features of a destination device of the system.

12. Data processing apparatus comprising the technical features of a
30 source device in a system as claimed in Claim 1.

13. Data processing apparatus as claimed in Claim 12, further comprising the technical features of a destination device in a system as claimed in Claim 1.

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